

**Remember to vote in the Sept. 12th DC Primary. The next SWNA meeting will be Monday, Sept. 25th.**

# The Southwester

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September 2000

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## Getting Ready for School

**S**eptember 5 is the BIG day, the first day of school. Students who are going to be attending one of the schools in Southwest are asked to register at that school—"the sooner, the better."

For more information, call Amidon at (202) 724-4867, Anthony Bowen at (202) 724-4871 or Jefferson Jr. High at (202) 724-4881. ■

## Caring Neighbors

By Barbara Murray

In 1999, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship program received four \$1,000 donations and several other sizable contributions. Four of the 15 scholarship recipients received awards in the name of community organizations and distinguished neighbors.

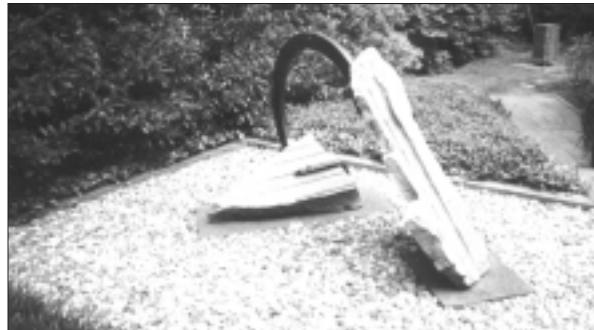
This year marks the 26th year of this unique program in Southwest. The spirit of giving to support community youth aspiring to get a college education is alive and well. Thank you to all Southwest neighbors for your tax deductible contribution!

Returning Students	College
Amber Drummond	Emory University
Scott Frankel	Rochester Institute of Technology
Tiffany Haliburton	Cornell University
Rhonda Hamilton	Howard University
Shenearah Lassiter	University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Davina Minnix	University of Maryland
Abiri Ward	Hunter College

New Students Being Interviewed	College
Donneice Cheeks	Johnson C. Smith College
Paris A. Davis	Marshall University
Samson Mamo	State University of New York
Alexander McMahan	College of West Virginia

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*Sculpture at MAC*

## Millennium Arts Center

By Carole Early

The changes that have occurred at the Millennium Arts Center at 65 Eye Street in Southwest are quite surprising. When I visited MAC four months ago it looked like an abandoned school building; it had promise but it was difficult to envision. Visiting again recently I was amazed to see what a coat of paint and several operating artists' studios could do. To date there is a stained-glass artist team, a fine arts painter, a photographer and a graphics artist who have moved into their studio spaces. Several other artists have chosen their studio spaces and will be moving in soon. Rental space for artists has been set at a reasonable \$12 per square foot.

The plans for the fall include a conference room with living room areas which will be made available for community meetings, free of charge. In addition, woodturning and glass blowing studios will be installed. These will be open to the public for viewing as well as for classes. Two small movie theaters for Ameri-

can/foreign independent films will open in 2001. The plan is to offer children's movies on Saturdays.

The courtyard is being turned into a sculpture garden with cafe. At this time it has playground equipment that Mr. Wooby is trying to give away, free of charge. The only stipulation is that whoever wants it, must pick it up. Planned for January 2001 is the Inaugural Exhibit which will be open to the public. The MAC has been working with state arts councils

*continued on page 6*

## Robert Collins Receives Award



Robert Collins, a Southwest resident and First Mate for Odyssey Cruises, was recently awarded the 2000 Washington, DC Hospitality Employee of the Year by The Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Convention and Visitors Association.

"Robert is very deserving of this award", says Odyssey's Captain Chip Lee. Robert has taken personal ownership in the look of the vessel as well as in guest satisfaction and safety." Robert has been with Odyssey Cruises since day one of opening their operation here in 1995 starting as a galley employee. His leadership abilities were quickly noticed and he was promoted to the marine department where he rose through the ranks to First Mate.

In the past five seasons, Robert has won Employee of the Month several times. In 1997 and 1999, Robert was awarded the Odyssey Employee of the Year. ■

## New Police Partnership

PPS is the newest method of adequately informing and training all the stakeholders in the community to have a safe and healthy neighborhood.

This is the Metropolitan Police Department's newest method of adequately informing and training all community stakeholders. PPS provides a workbook with guidelines for community volunteers, police officers and agency representatives to work together to identify crime and disorder and develop strategies to impact these problems.

PSA 110 has two elements: divided areas and accountable police officers. The areas are divided into a neighborhood with several square blocks or several neighborhoods with a few square miles. PSA 110 is one of 83 PSAs in DC.

Each PSA consists of a lieutenant, two or three sergeants and the police officers on all three tours of duty. These officers are held accountable for actions in their assigned PSA. ■

## Library Hours

Wesley Place & K St., SW  
(202)724-4752  
M,W 10 am - 9:00 pm  
T,Th, F, S 10 am - 5:30 pm

High School students are invited to browse the Library's collection of on-line scholarship information (both national and local). And remember, the applications for the SW Scholarships will be available in the early Spring. If you would like computer training, it is available at Martin Luther King Library. Ask librarian for information. ■

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## The Southwester

P.O. Box 70131, Washington D C 20024

**Southwester Staff**  
202/554-8560

Dale MacIver, *Asstn Ed.*  
Wallace Babington, *Theater Critic*  
Susan Fischer, Maurice Boyd, *Advertising*  
Cathy Wallace, *Business Manager*  
Maurice Cook, *Writer*  
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Janet Butler, *Reporter*  
Carole Early, Herbert Holmes, Rodney Horns,  
*Production Assistant*

Drop off your stories by **Wed. September 6** in the  
box behind the counter at the SW Library, 3rd and I  
or the desk at 700 7 St SW, Box 130.

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**Ad deadline Wed. September 6**

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**Clerical Worker Wanted.** SW resident needs part-time assistance, flexible hours. Retiree, student ok. Call (202) 488-1216.

## Classes in SW

### The Family Investment Center Job Club

Do you need help finding a job? You can get that help by stopping by 205 L St., SW.

Bus tokens & flashpasses, High School Diploma, emergency Day Care, hair cuts, rental assistance, books & supplies, work clothing. Coordinator, Tracey Hooks (202) 724-2152. ■

### The Southwest Community House GED Program

By Rhonda Hamilton

This GED Program is open to all District residents. It is a comprehensive program that prepares students to take the GED Examination regardless of their level. Each student receives individual attention, as well as tutoring in all subject areas related to the test.

Classes meet Monday-Thursday from 9:00am to 1:00 pm. For more information contact Ms. Roberta Patrick at (202) 488-7210 or stop by the program at 1501 Half St., SW #22. ■

## Southwest Community/Family Day

is for all SW residents, and local businesses. Both are August 26, 2000, Community Day is in the Lansburg park located in the 1000 block of Delaware Avenue, SW from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This event is sponsored by PSA 110 and the Southwest Community House Association Incorporated.

Family Day is also in Lansburg Park, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm. Both events are free. Come out and enjoy your local gospel groups while eating and building partnerships. There will also be employment opportunities, employment assistance, and family counseling information booths located in the park.

The following will provide demonstrations and/or displays: Metropolitan Police Department, DC Emergency Medical Services, US Capital Police, US Attorney's Office, DC Public Schools, DC Youth and Family Services, US Army, DC Fire Department, DC Housing Authority, US Park Police, DC Recreation Department, DC Human Services Department and US Coast Guard. ■

## Southwest Community Calendar

August-September

Aug.19	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club, 10am SW Branch Library, 920 Wesley Place, SW
Aug.23	Wednesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters Club, 6:45pm SW Branch Library, 920 Wesley Place, SW
Aug.26	Saturday	SW Family Day (SWCH/PSA 110,) noon-6pm 1000 block of Delaware
Sept.2	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club, (See Aug. 19 for place & time)
Sept.5	Tuesday	1st District MPD Citizen's Advisory Council 7pm, DCPD, 415 Fourth St., SW Community Room
Sept.11	Monday	Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D 7pm Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4th and I St., SW
Sept.12	Tuesday	DC Primary Elections, 7am-8pm, Precinct #127 St. Matthew's Church, #128 Friendship Baptist Church, #129 Jefferson Jr. HS
Sept.12	Tuesday	SWNA Board Meeting, 7pm SWNA Office, Waterside Mall 401 M St., SW
Sept.13	Wednesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters (See Aug 23 for place & time)
Sept.16	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters (See Aug 19 for place & time)
Sept.20	Wednesday	AARP, SW Waterfront Chapter #4751, noon St. Matthews Church, 222 M St., SW
Sept.21	Thursday	Police PSA/Partnership, 7pm River Park Mutual Homes, 1301 Delaware Ave., SW
Sept.25	Monday	Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Mtg., 7pm St. Matthew's Church, 222 M St. S.W.
Sept.27	Wednesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters (See Aug 23 for place & time)
Sept.28	Thursday	NARFE, 12 noon SW Branch Library, 920 Wesley Place, SW

*Note: NARFE, SWNA Asembly, AARP, and other usual meetings without schedules listed above will not meet until September.*

*Please submit calendar items for the next issue by Wed. Sept. 6 to C.W. Hargrave 554-8284.*

## DOT Update

By Gottlieb Simon

GSA is scheduled to announce its choice for the site of the new DOT building this month (September). In March GSA narrowed the choice down to four sites (proposed by 5 different teams). The four finalists are the current site at 400 7th Street SW, 801 New Jersey Avenue NW, Southeast Federal Center, and the 1200 Block of Maryland Avenue SW (the Portal site).

David Nassif and Associates, owners of the Nassif Building, the current DOT headquarters, plan a top to bottom renovation of the current headquarters if their plan is selected. The renovation will be done in four phases. One quarter of the headquarters will be renovated at a time and the DOT personnel will be temporarily relocated to another location. ■

## On-line Voters' Guide

By Susan Fischer

The League of Women Voters' has put its Voters' Guide on-line at [www.dnet.org](http://www.dnet.org)

You can get information about candidates and their stands on the issues at all levels of government, including our very own Ward 2, as well as download voter registration forms. To pull up the Ward 2 Council Member race, just plug in your zipcode. The LWV has already submitted questions to all the candidates and their replies should appear on the site soon. You can use the website to submit your own questions to the candidates, too. If you don't have internet access at home, try the computers at the SW branch of the library. ■

## Letter from the Guest Editor

The regular editor of the *Southwester*, Dale MacIver, is taking a few well deserved weeks off and the "guest editor" is Carole Early.

I want to thank everyone who has helped with this issue. Several new faces from the community came to the *Southwester* meetings and contributed new ideas and articles. We usually meet on the third and fourth Thursdays at 7:30 at the SWNA Office at Waterside Mall. Call for information. The number is (202) 554-8560.

Thank you,  
Carole Early, *former Editor*

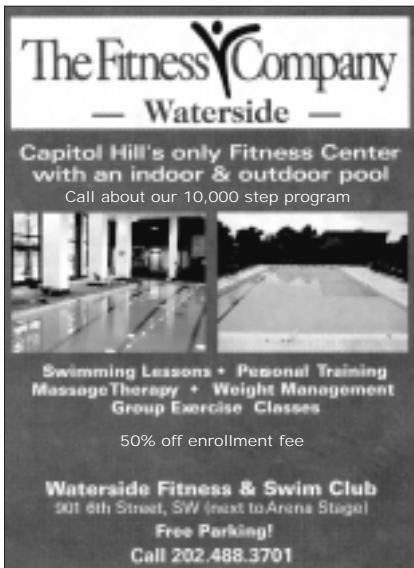
## The STARS Program

By Janet Butler

Recently a team from the Southwest Health Center, composed of the director, Dr. Rucker, Nurse Joyce Abrams and Cheryl Cook, Public Relations, opened its doors to area schools for an interactive approach to health-care education.

The Summer STARS Program has incorporated good healthcare and international studies through Washington's museums and lots of hands-on ventures.

One of the active participants of this program, Mrs. Mitchell, 1st grade teacher from Amidon Elementary at 6th & I Street, SW has started the STARS Program at the local schools. Amidon, Bowen and Jefferson are taking part in the program. Functions of the Southwest Health clinic will be brought to the classroom. Contact your school to be a member of the STAR Program or to be a STAR supporter. ■



## SWNA Waterside Mall/ Waterfront Task Force

By Nancy O'Brien

Members of the Task Force and other SW residents met with Sidney Bresler, WMC Management, on Thursday, July 13, 2000 to discuss current conditions at Waterside Mall. When GSA plans to vacate in 2002, Mr. Sidney Bresler assured the committee that "there will be no base closing" meaning that he is looking into alternatives to the current mall structure.

In regard to present improvements, WMATA has installed new curb cuts and painted a striped walkway that runs diagonally from the Metro island to the Mall. It was noted that the new walkway might not be used because it points away from the Mall entrance and forces pedestrians to cross without a good view of oncoming traffic. It was suggested that eliminating some parking spaces on the north side of the Metro island would give pedestrians a better view of traffic.

To help in redirecting one-way traffic within the parking lot, Mr. Bresler has installed new traffic barriers. Since the Metro island is located on private property, parking or traffic violations affecting pedestrians should be reported to Mall security (202-484-8855), who in turn will contact DC police.

*Specific Waterside Mall concerns raised were:* security; recruitment of new business to replace vacant stores; rodent problems; restroom conditions and signage; outside landscaping; broken concrete; responsibility for internal window washing. Mr. Bresler suggested that anyone with a specific complaint about conditions in Mall retail stores should write a complaint to the store manager with a cc to him. His office is at Waterside Mall, 401 M St., SW. ■

**John Fanning** who is running for the Ward 2 Council seat visited Greenleaf Senior Complex to address and discuss the many issues affecting Senior Citizens in Ward 2. He said that it was an opportunity to educate and inform the Seniors. A lovely lunch was prepared by his campaign staff. ■

## Spirit Cruises Protest

By Gottlieb Simon

The Alcoholic Beverages Commission Board (ABC) took up ANC 2D's protest to the Spirit Cruises liquor license at a meeting in early August. The ANC's protest grows out of continuing neighborhood complaints about noise from the vessels and departing passengers and problems created by tour buses taking passengers to and from the ships.

Ed Green, Spirit Cruises General Manager who regards the ANC protest as "without merit" asked the ABC Board for mediation. Both sides will report back to the Board on September 6. If the mediation is unsuccessful the ANC can request a "protest hearing." ■

## Syphax School Site

By Margaret Feldman

Archeological studies requested for the Syphax School site by the DC Historic Preservation staff have now been completed. No materials of significant archeological interest were found by the consultant who made the investigation.

The plan is to demolish the newer parts of the school and retain the historic original building built in 1902 and part of the 1941 addition.

The preserved school building will be converted to condos and Manna will build 29 new town houses for moderate home buyers. The development is to be called Syphax Village, and an historic marker will identify the school as being named for William Syphax, the first Black member of the School Board.

According to Mr. George Rothman, President of Manna, the leading non-profit developer of affordable home ownership in DC, the last major step before the construction process can begin is receiving approval from the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Most of the financing has already been arranged and Mr. Rothman projects that construction can begin next year on this long-awaited project.

Since the closing of the school several years ago, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and the neighbors across the street from the School have been supporting the redevelopment of the property. ■

# Washington Video

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**Jack Evans ad  
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paste-up**



15 youth got to keep their new tennis rackets and a can of tennis balls at the end of two weeks of daily lessons. In back are Tom Robinson, volunteer instructor, and Ann Pharr, coordinator for YATE.

## YATF Offers Tennis, Chess, Swimming

Offer youth positive activities and they will respond with enthusiasm. The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Youth Activity Task Force (YATF) is rediscovering this universal truth. As a result of receiving a \$10,000 grant from the World Bank Community Outreach Grant Program, the YATF has begun implementing some short-term youth programs. Three modest programs (2 or 3 week sessions), each for about 15 youth, began the week of July 17—tennis, swimming and chess.

The tennis program, led by volunteer Tom Robinson, was held at the King-Greenleaf outdoor tennis courts. The swimming program was at the Waterside Fitness/Swim Club at 901 6th St. S.W. and was led by Jill

Turner, Instructor/Lifeguard. Finally, Vaughn Bennett, a chess instructor, volunteered to hold some chess classes that were held at the Southwest Library.

Although these three classes are completed, others will follow. YATF is planning activities like computer instruction for youth at D.C. Link & Learn, a theater workshop at Arena Stage and an arts program at the Millennium Art Center.

The YATF wishes to take this opportunity to put out an urgent call for adult volunteers to work with youth on tennis, chess, computers or mentoring. If interested, please call the SWNA office (554-8560) or Rick Bardach, YATF Co-chair at 554-8282. ■

## Greenleaf Wins S.W. Basketball Championship

The annual S.W. youth summer basketball tournament at King-Greenleaf outdoor court was won by Greenleaf, players from Greenleaf Gardens, M St. to I St. S.W. along 3rd St.

In sponsoring this year's tournament, the Southwest Community House provided jerseys and trophies.

Runner-up in the championship game was a team from James Creek, south of M St. S.W., between Half St. and First St. ■



(L to R) Melvin Mayo, athletic director of Bowen Elementary School; League Most Valuable Player (MVP) Khalil Carson, and David Brewer, executive director of the Southwest Community House.



CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM. (Front row, L to R): Rico Hines, Michael Locksley, Jr., Delante Mack. (Back row, L to R): Jeff Rice, Coach Ronald Hines, Larry Braxton, Ronald Hines, Jr., Steven Savoy, William Tillman, Wesley Wood, Dario Brown.

## The Hungry Bear

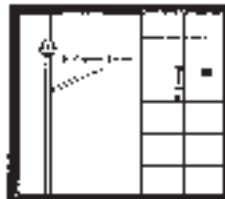


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Sheila Smith**

of Greenleaf for her tireless efforts in her capacity as a board member of Southwest Community Health Center, Community Outreach Champion. In addition to feeding the homeless, she was in charge of the Millennium Peace Day on May 27, 2000. ■

**PSA Walkathon**

by Naomi Monk

There is a monthly Walkathon every first Saturday. The next walk is September 2 at 10:00 AM-12 noon. We meet at the Thelma Martin Room, Carrollsburg, A Condominium. Call 202/554-5780 for directions. ■



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**Theater Notes**

By Wallace Babington

**Allen Lee Hughes Fellows Program**

Allen Lee Hughes

Arena Stage has made a strong and challenging commitment to assure cultural diversity in its program and staff. One of the most creative and rewarding expressions of this determination was the establishment in 1990 of the apprenticeship program that provides opportunities for culturally diverse candidates from all over the country to apprentice at Arena Stage. The program was named for Arena's Associate Artist/Lighting Designer, Allen Lee Hughes. Mr. Hughes came to Arena in 1969 to work as an electrician. He has developed from that beginning into a nationally acclaimed and recognized designer. The fellows program is aptly named for this outstanding

Millennium Arts Center *continued from page 1*

who have shown enthusiasm for this project and have been contacting artists in their states/territories. The response from artists from Maine to Hawaii has been so overwhelming that the deadline for entries for this juried exhibit has been extended another month. It promises to be an exciting exhibit representing artists nationwide.

With 26 Congressional Members on the Honorary Advisory Board, the MAC promises to be a major arts space for the city, the country and particularly for our Southwest neighborhood. Part of MAC's mission is to be 'national' in scope and community minded in spirit.

Like all non-profits they need money and volunteers. Help is needed with carpentry, electrical, gardening, plumbing, cleanup, stuffing envelopes, computers. Help setting the gallery will also be appreciated in January 2001 during the Inaugural Exhibit. To volunteer, call Bill Wooy at (202) 479-2572 or to make a donation send a check to Millennium Arts Center, 65 Eye Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. Mr. Wooy also invites anyone in the neighborhood who would like to see the progress being made on MAC to come for a tour. Call in advance.

There were rooms of furniture left in the building when it was vacated (desks, chairs, filing cabinets). Call Bill Wooy (at the above number) if you need office furniture.

Most of us would agree that homeless shelters are a necessity and a blessing for those who have nowhere to go. But what if that shelter adjoins a children's play area? That is the predicament that the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Millennium Arts Center is facing. The Randall Shelter which is in the gymnasium of the building that houses the MAC also abuts the swimming pool, baseball field, basketball and tennis courts of the Randall Community Center where the children swim and play. Some in the neighborhood have begun to take issue with the fact that the shelter should not have been installed in an area that was designed for children's use. If you would like more information about this, call Bill Wooy at (202) 479-2572. ■

**Mary Ann  
Bailer Moves  
from SW**

Mary Ann Bailer lived in Southwest since 1960.

Earlier this summer, she moved to an apartment in NW Washington. She was a fixture here for 40 years. Her former husband and she came to this city as part of the Kennedy Administration, the Commission on Housing.

This is a true "Renaissance Woman". A teacher, motivator, peace-maker, community and city-wide activist, exercise guru, mother to two adult children and grandmother to four and surrogate mother to many, many SW youths.

Her first community outreach programs began soon after she arrived in DC. She began her community volunteer work at St. Augustine's Church. She taught dance at Amidon Elementary School, Jefferson Junior High School and Greenleaf Recreation Center. Remember the SW Festival of the Arts? She was in charge of that for several years. She was an active member of the Youth Activities Task Force / Summer Youth Program. Her "Stars of the Future" program helped many youngsters. She was a district rep, representing her area of SW to the SWNA board.

Mary Ann is a former president of the SW Chapter of AARP. She provided community service to the senior citizens living at 1200 Delaware Avenue. And until several years ago, she was working full-time at the UDC Cooperative Extension Service. SW wishes her well in her new home and will never forget her contributions to SW. ■

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## Obits



On May 14, 2000 one of Southwest's finest died. *Robert Johnson Omohundro*, was a noted physicist, who was part of the Manhattan Project and worked on the development of the bomb. In 1948, he went to the Naval Research Lab and worked on missiles. He worked there until 1984 when he retired. He has been in for the past seventeen years.

Bob was a very active member of St. Augustine's Church. It was there (either at a church retreat or another church function) that he met his wife, Jeanne Beauchamp Omohundro. They got married in 1988 and have been at Riverpark ever since.

He was the first Advertising Chair of The Southwester and remained at this position for several years. Some of our current ads can be traced to his tenure. Bob is survived by his wife and a lot of family members. Donations may be made to St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street, SW—the Education Fund.

*Arnold Taupraditha*, "Mr. Fixit" of Capitol Park II and IV condominiums, died in April 2000. There was a memorial service at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

He was a native of Thailand, employed by Buelken Property Management.

He is survived by his two daughters. ■

## River Park Friends, Inc. Southwesters Helping Southwesters

With your contributions to River Park Friends, Inc., we have recently helped five more programs in Southwest:



- History of E.W. Jackson's River Park Neighborhood

- Washingtonians in Parks B & G League

- S.W. All Neighborhood Partnership

- College scholarships for S.W. youth

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### Dupont Circle

No more private club liquor licenses vs. residential neighborhoods

- Stop against the recent/controversial planning process of the Dupont Circle Underground
- Expanding the Arts and Creative Industries in Southwest Washington

### Logan Circle & Blagden Alley

Eliminate proslavery and nonconservatory enforcement areas that favor the automobile at the expense of people

- Targeted outreach initiative to the business population with the ultimate goal of bettering their lives and reducing the impact on quality of life

### In My First 100 Days

With substantial research force, with an outside facilitator, to review differences concerning Dupont Circle residents, business owners, and DC government agencies with the ultimate goal of proposing a comprehensive resolution plan

**John Fanning** • XXXX  
**Take Back Ward 2**

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